ACCOUNT

OFTHE

LIFE

OF

GEORGE BERKELEY, D.D.



LATE BISHOP OF CLOYNE IN IRELAND.

WITH NOTES,

CONTAINING STRICTURES UPON HIS WORKS.

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fatality attending upon some of the first characters in the republic of letters, that the very celebrity they had deservedly acquired amongst their cotemporaties has prevented an accurate knowledge of their lives from defeending to posterity. A writer, distinguished by uncommon abilities, more especially if that writer

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has acted a bufy part on the stage of life, is so frequently the subject of conversation, that for some years after his removal the memories of those who knew him are thought. to be fufficiently fecure repositories of his fame; till by degrees the fading materials on which his actions were written moulder away, and curiofity begins precifely at the point of time when the means of gratifying it are loft. How nearly this hath been the case of the excellent prelate whose life, character, and writings we have bere attempted to describe, the reader will be able to form a judgment when he is affured, that in more

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more than twenty years which have clapfed fince the death of Bishop BERKELEY, no account of him hath yet been offered to the public that was not either void of truth, or extremely inaccurate and defective. Neither is this intended as a censure upon such as wrote from what information they could collect, and probably thought any account, however imperfect, of fo extraordinary a person, better than none: it is only offered as an excuse for the present undertaking, to which the author is conscious he brings no other qualification than knowledge of the truth of every fact he relates, and

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iv INTRODUCTION.

an entire freedom from prejudice. Particular acquaintance with the family and friends of Bishop Berkeley has put him in possession of the first; the course itself of the following narrative will best shew, whether he has any just pretensions to the latter.

wrote from we wood and they could called, by you could called, by you could all you were imported, any accounty increase of so extraordinary a person, better than none: itsis only offered as an execuse for the profest undertaking, to which the anther sistentials in conficust he brings no other sister infraction than knowledge of the truth, or every sack increases, and

Our author was been Marell 12, 1684, at Kileria near Thomaslown, received the first part of his education at Kilkenny school **A**ler D**A** lintol and **f** as admitted a positioner of Triaity College, Dublin, at the age of first, under the tuition of D. 1131. He was choice fellow of that college has go to fellow of that college has go to 12.

BISHOP BERKELEY.

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candidates for that purhament me by the

PR. GEORGE BERKELEY, the learned and ingenious bishop of Cloyne in Ireland, was a native of that kingdom, and the son of WILLIAM BERKELEY of Thomastown, in the county of Kilkenny, whose father went over to Ireland after the Restoration (the family having suffered greatly for their loyalty to Charles I.) and there obtained the collectorship of Belfast.

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Our

Our author was born March 12, 1684, at Kilcrin near Thomastown, received the first part of his education at Kilkenny school under Dr. Hinton, and was admitted a pensioner of Trinity College, Dublin, at the age of sisteen, under the tuition of Dr. Hall. He was chosen sellow of that college June 9, 1707, having previously sustained with honour the very trying examination, which the candidates for that preferment are by the statutes required to undergo.

The first proof he gave of his literary abilities was (A) Arithmetica absque Algebra aut Euclide demonstrata, which, from the presace, he appears to have written before he was twenty years old, though he did not publish it till 1707. It is dedicated to Mr. Pallifer, son to the archbishop of Cashel, and is followed by a Mathematical Miscellany, containing some very ingenious observations and theorems

theorems inscribed to his pupil Mr. Samuel Molyneux, a gentleman of whom we shall have occasion to make further mention presently, and whose father was the celebrated friend and correspondent of Mr. Locke.

Milioneux abovests attend to their late

His (B) Theory of Vision was published in 1709, and the (C) Principles of human Knowledge appeared the year after. The airy visions of romances, to the reading of which he was much addicted, disgust at the books of metaphysics then received in the University, and that inquisitive attention to the operations of the mind which about this time was excited by the writings of Mr. Locke and Father Malebranche, probably gave birth to his disbelief of the existence of matter.

In 1712, the principles inculcated in Mr. Locke's Two Treatifes of Government, feem to have turned his attention to the A 2 doctrine

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doctrine of passive obedience; in support of which he printed the substance of three Common-places delivered by him that year in the college chapel, a work which afterwards did him some injury in his fortune. For being presented by Mr. Molyneux abovementioned to their late majesties, then Prince and Princess of Wales (whose secretary Mr. Molyneux) had been at Hanover) he was by them recommended to Lord Galway for fome preferment in the church of Ireland, But Lord Galway having heard of those fermons, represented him as a Jacobite, an impression which Mr. Molyneux as foon as he was apprized of it, took care to remove from the minds of their highnesses by producing the work in question, and shewing that it contained nothing but principles of loyalty to the present happy establishment, This was the first occasion of our Author's being known to Queen Caroline. Rem. to here turned his attention of

In February 1713 he croffed the water, and published in London a further defence of his celebrated fystem of immaterialism, in Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous. Acuteness of parts and a beautiful imagination were fo conspicuous In his writings, that his reputation was now established, and his company was courted, even where his opinions did not Two gentlemen of opfind admission. posite principles concurred in introducing him to the acquaintance of the learned and the great Sir Richard Steele, and Dr. Swift. He wrote several papers in the Guardian for the former, and at his house became acquainted with Mr. Pope, with whom he continued to live in strict friendship during his life. Dean Swift, besides Lord Berkeley of Stratton (D) (to whom our author dedicated his laft published dialogues between Hylas and Philonous) and other valuable acquaintance, recommended him to the celebrated Earl of

Peterborough, who being appointed Embassador to the King of Sicily and to the other Italian states, took Mr. Berkeley with him in quality of chaplain and secretary, in November 1713.

beautiful in spination were to confp At Leghorn, his lordship's well known activity induced him to difencumber himfelf of his chaplain and the greatest part of his retinue, whom he left in that town for upwards of three months, while he discharged the business of his embassy in Sicily, as our author informs his friend Pope in the conclusion of a complimentary letter addressed to that poet on the Rape of the Lock, dated Leghorn, May It may not be amiss to record 1, 1714. a little incident that befel Mr. Berkeley in this city, with the relation of which he used sometimes to make himself merry among his friends. Bafil Kennett, the author of the Roman Antiquities, was

¹⁰ had bound Pope's Works.

then chaplain to the English factory at Leghorn, the only place in Italy where the English service is tolerated by the government, which favour had lately been obtained from the Grand Duke at the particular instance of Queen Anne. This gentleman requested Mr. Berkeley to preach for him one Sunday. The day following, as Berkeley was fitting in his chamber, a procession of priests in surplices, and with all other formalities, entered the room, and without taking the least notice of the wondering inhabitant, marched quite round it, muttering certain prayers. His fears immediately suggested to him that this could be no other than a visit from the Inquisition, who had heard of his officiating before heretics without ficence, the day before. As foon as they were gone, he ventured with much caution to enquire into the cause of this extraordinary appearance, and was happy to be informed, that this was the season

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pointed by the Romish calendar for sollemnly blessing the houses of all good catholics from rats and other vermin; a piece of intelligence which changed his terror into mirth.

He returned to England with Lord Peterborough in August 1714, (E) and his hopes of preferment through this channel expiring with the fall of Queen Anne's ministry, he some time after embraced an advantageous offer made him by Dr. St. George Ashe, Bishop of Clogher, and late Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, of accompanying his son, Mr. Ashe (who was heir to a very considerable property) in a tour through Europe.

At Paris, having now more leifure than when he first passed through that city, Mr. Berkeley took care to pay his respects to his rival in metaphysical sagacity, the illustrious Pere Malebranche.

He

He found this ingenious father in his cell, cooking in a fmall pipkin a medicine for a diforder with which he was then troubled, an inflammation on the lungs. The conversation naturally turned on our author's fystem, of which the other had received fome knowledge from a translation just published. But the issue of this debate proved tragical to poor Malebranche.—In the heat of disputation he raifed his voice fo high, and gave way fo freely to the natural impetuofity of a man of parts and a Frenchman, that he brought on himself a violent increase of his diforder, which carried him off a few days after 2.

In this second excursion abroad Mr. Berkeley employed upwards of sour years; and besides all those places which are usually visited by travellers in what is

² He died October 13, 1715. Dict. hist. portatif d'Advocat.

called the grand tour, his curiofity carried him to some that are less frequented. In particular he travelled over Apulia, the Tarentese (from which he wrote an accurate and entertaining account of the tarantula to Dr. Friend) Calabria, and the whole island of Sicily. This last country engaged his attention fo strongly, that he had with great industry compiled very considerable materials for a natural history of the island: but by an unfortunate accident these, together with a journal of his transactions there, were lost in the paffage to Naples, nor could he be prevailed upon afterwards to recollect and commit those curious particulars again to paper (F). What an injury the literary world has fustained by this mischance, may in part be collected from the specimen he has left of his talent for lively description, in his letter to Mr. Pope (G) concerning the island of Inarime (now Ischia, in the bay of Naples) dated Naples,

ples, October 22, 1717; and in another from the same city to Dr. Arbuthnott, giving an account of an eruption of Mount Vesuvius, which he had the good fortune to have more than one opportunity of examining very minutely.

On his way homeward he drew up at 5 Lyons a curious tract (H) De motu, which he fent to the royal academy of sciences at Paris, the subject being proposed by that assembly, and committed it to the press shortly after his arrival in London in 1721. But from these abstrufe speculations he was drawn away for a while by the humanity of his temper and concern for the public welfare. It is well known what miseries the nation was plunged into by the fatal South Sea scheme in 1720. Mr. Berkeley felt for his country and British neighbours groaning under these calamitous distresses, and in that spirit employed his talents in bas B 2 writing

writing An Essay towards preventing the Ruin of Great Britain, printed London-

His travels had now fo far improved his natural politeness, and added such charms to his conversation, that he found a ready admission into the best company in London. Among the rest, Mr. Pope introduced him to Lord Burlington, who conceived a high esteem for him on account of his great taste and skill in architecture, an art of which his Lordship was an excellent judge and patron, and which Mr. Berkeley had made his particular study while in Italy. By this nobleman he was recommended to the Duke of Grafton, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, who took him over to Ireland as one of his chaplains in 1721, after he had been absent from his native country more than fix years. He had been elected a fenior fellow of his college in July 1717, and

and now took the degrees of bachelor and doctor in divinity, November 14,

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The year following his fortune received a confiderable increase from a very unexpected event. On his first going to London in the year 1713, Dean Swift introduced him to the family of Mrs. Esther Vanhomrigh, a lady whose name is no stranger to these memoirs, and took him often to dine at her house. Some years before her death, Vanessa had removed to Ireland, and fixed her refidence at Cell-bridge, a pleafant village in the neighbourhood of Dublin, most probably with a view of often enjoying the company of a man, for whom she seems to have entertained a very fingular attachment. But finding herself totally disappointed in this expectation, and discovering the Dean's connection with Stella, the was to enraged at his infidelity, that The

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the altered her intention of making him her heir, and left the whole of her fortune, amounting to near 8000 l. to be divided equally between two gentlemen whom the named her executors, Mr. Marshal, a lawyer, afterwards Mr. Justice Marshal, and Dr. Berkeley, S. F. T. C. D. The doctor received the news of this bequest from Mr. Marshal with great furprize, as he had never once feen the lady who had honoured him with fuch a proof of her esteem, from the time of his return to Ireland to her death. It was fortunate however for Swift, that Berkeley was chosen one of her executors: for, in confequence of this trust, the whole correspondence between Cadenus and Vanessa, as well as the poem that goes under that name, fell into the hands of a man who had so much tenderness for his friend's reputation as to burn the letters immediately, though he faw nothing in the verses that should hinder their publication. From

From some fragments that have since got into print (probably hasty extracts taken by such as had seen them before they came into Dr. Berkeley's hands) it appears, that if there was nothing criminal, there was at least a warmth in those letters, that justifies Dr. Berkeley's delicacy in suppressing them. Mr. Marshal, the other executor, had entered so far into the resentment of his benefactress against Swift, and was besides so attached to that Bettesworth whom the Dean's satiric muse has immortalized, that he was not without difficulty prevailed upon to give his confent to their suppression.

May 18, 1724, Dr. Berkeley refigned his fellowship, being promoted by his patron the Duke of Grafton to the deanery of Derry, worth 11001. per annum. In the interval between this removal and his return from abroad, his mind had been employed in conceiving that

that benevolent project, which alone entitles him to as much honour as all his learned labours have procured him, the Scheme for converting the favage Americans to Christianity, by a College to be erected in the Summer islands, otherwise called the iftes of Bermuda. He published proposal for this purpose, London 1725, and offered to refign his own opulent preferment, and to dedicate the remainder of his life to the instructing the youth in America, on the moderate fubfiftence of 100 l. yearly. Such was the force of this difinterested example, supported by the eloquence of an enthuliast for the good of mankind, that three junior fellows of Trinity College, Dublin, the Reverend William Thompson, Jonathan Rogers, and James King, mafters of arts, confented to take their fortunes with the author of the project, and to exchange for a settlement in the Atlantic ocean at 40 1. per annum, all their prospects at home:

home; and that too at a time, when a fellowship of Dublin College was supposed to place the possessor in a very fair point of view for attracting the notice of his superiors both in the church and state.

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Dr. Berkeley however was not fo ill acquainted with the world, as to rest the fuccess of his application to the ministry entirely on the hope his scheme afforded of promoting national honour and the cause of Christianity: his arguments were drawn from the more alluring topic of present advantage to the government. Having with much industry acquired an accurate knowledge of the value of certain lands (K) in the island of St. Christopher's, yielded by France to Great Britain at the treaty of Utrecht, which were then to be fold for the public use, he undertook to raise from them a much greater fum than was expected, and proposed

posed that a part of the purchase money should be applied to the erecting of his college. He found means, by the affiftance of a Venetian of distinction, the Abbé Gualtieri (or Altieri) with whom he had formed an acquaintance in Italy, to carry this propofal directly to King George I. (L) who laid his commands on Sir Robert Walpole to introduce and conduct it through the House of Commons. His Majesty was further pleased to grant a charter for erecting a college by the name of St. Paul's College in Bermuda, to confift of a prefident and nine fellows. who were obliged to maintain and educate Indian scholars at the rate of 101. per annum for each. The first president, Dr. George Berkeley, and first three fellows named in the charter (being the gentlemen above-mentioned) were licensed to hold their preferments in these kingdoms till the expiration of one year and a half after their arrival in Bermuda. The

The Commons, May 11, 1726, voted, "That an humble address be presented " to his majesty, that out of the lands in St. Christopher's, yielded by France " to Great Britain by the treaty of "Utrecht, his majesty would be gra-" cioufly pleafed to make fuch grant for " the use of the president and fellows of " the college of St. Paul, in Bermuda, " as his majesty shall think proper." The fum of 10,000l. was accordingly promised by the minister, and several private subscriptions were immediately raised for promoting " fo pious an under-" taking," as it is stilled in the king's answer 3 to this address. Such a prospect of fuccess in the favourite object of his heart, drew from our author a beautiful copy of verses (M) in which another age perhaps will acknowledge the old conjunction of the prophetic character with

Commons Journal, May 16, 1726.

that of the poet to have again taken place.

In the mean time the Dean entered into a marriage, August 1, 1728, with Anne, the eldest daughter of the Right Honourable John Forster, Esq; speaker of the Irish house of Commons. This engagement however was fo far from being any obstruction to his grand undertaking, that he actually fet fail in the execution of it for Rhode Island about the middle of September following. He carried with him his lady, a Miss Handcock, two gentlemen of fortune, Meff. Tames and Dalton, a pretty large fum of money of his own property, and a collection of books for the use of his intended library (N). He directed his course to Rhode Isand, which lay nearest to Bermuda, with a view of purchasing lands on the adjoining continent as estates for the support of his college; having a positive

positive promise from those in power, that the parliamentary grant should be paid him as soon as ever such lands should be pitched upon and agreed for. The Dean took up his residence at Newport in Rhode Island, where his presence was a great relief to a clergyman of the church of England established in those parts, as he preached every Sunday, and was indefatigable in pastoral labours during the whole time of his stay there, which was near two years.

When estates had been agreed for, it was fully expected that the public money would, according to grant, be immediately paid as the purchase of them. But the minister had never heartily embraced the project, and parliamentary influence had by this time interposed, in order to divert the grant into another channel. The sale of the lands in St. Christophers, it was found, would produce

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duce 90,0001. Of this fum 80,0001. was destined to pay the marriage portion of the Princess Royal, on her nuptials with the Prince of Orange: the remainder General Oglethorpe 5 had interest enough in parliament to obtain, for the purpose of carrying over and fettling foreign and other Protestants in his new colony of Georgia in America. The project indeed of the trustees for establishing this colony appears to have been equally humane and difinterested: but it is much to be lamented that it should interfere with another of more extensive and lasting utility, which, if it had taken effect by the education of the youth of New England and other colonies, we may venture with great appearance of reason to affirm, would have planted fuch principles of religion and loyalty among them, as might have gone

^{*} Commons Journal, May 10, 1733

⁵ Ibid.

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a good way towards preventing the prefent unhappy troubles in that part of the world. But to proceed:

After having received various excuses, Bishop Gibson, at that time bishop of London (in whose diocese all the West Indies are included) applying to Sir Robert Walpole, then at the head of the treasury, was favoured at length with the following very honest answer: " If you put this question to me," fays Sir Robert, " as a minister, I must and " can affure you that the money shall most undoubtedly be paid as soon as fuits with public convenience; but if you alk me as a friend, whether Dean Berkeley should continue in America, " expecting the payment of 10,000 l. "I advise him by all means to return 4. home to Europe, and to give up his " present expectations." The Dean being informed of this conference by his good . 4 friend

vinced that the bad policy of one great man had rendered abortive a scheme, whereon he had expended much of his private fortune, and more than seven years of the prime of his life, returned to Europe. Before he left Rhode Island, he distributed what books he had brought with him among the clergy of that province; and immediately after his arrival in London, he returned all the private subscriptions that had been advanced for the support of his undertaking.

In February 1732, he preached before the fociety for the Propagation of the Gospel in foreign Parts, a sermon since printed at their desire, wherein, from his own knowledge of the state of religion in America, he offers many useful hints towards promoting the noble purposes for which that society was founded.

" can affore you that the money thall

The same year he gave a more conspicuous proof that he had not mispent the time he had been confined on the other fide of the Atlantic, by producing to the world The Minute Philosopher, a masterly performance, wherein he purfues the Freethinker through the various characters of ratheist, libertine, enthusiast, scorner, critic, metaphyfician, fatalist, and sceptic: and very happily employs against him feveral new (O) weapons, drawn from the store-house of his own ingenious system of philosophy. It is written in a feries of dialogues on the model of Plato, a philosopher whom he studied particularly, and whose manner he is thought to have copied with more fuccess than any other that ever attempted to imitate him.

We have already related by what means, and upon what occasion, Dr. Berkeley had first the honour of being known to Queen Caroline. This Princess delighted

delighted much in attending to philofophical conversations between learned and ingenious men; for which purpose fhe had, when Princess of Wales, appointed a particular day in the week, when the most eminent for literary abilities at that time in England were invited to attend her Royal Highness in the evening; a practice which she continued after her accession to the throne. this company were Doctors Clarke, Hoadley, Berkeley, and Sherlock. Clarke and Berkeley were generally confidered as principals in the debates that arose upon those occasions; and Hoadley adhered to the former, as Sherlock did to the latter. Hoadley was no friend to our author: he affected to confider his philosophy and his Bermuda project as the reveries of a vifionary. Sherlock (who was afterwards Bishop of London) on the other hand warmly espoused his cause; and particularly when the Minute Philosopher came

out.

Out, he carried a copy of it to the Queen, and left it to her Majesty to determine whether such a work could be the production of a disordered understanding.

inspection of the post of the state of the

After Dean Berkeley's return from Rhode Island, the Queen often commanded his attendance to discourse with him on what he had observed worthy of notice in America. His agreeable and instructive conversation engaged that difcerning Princess so much in his favour. that the rich Deanery of Down in Ireland falling vacant, he was at her defire named to it, and the King's letter actually came over for his appointment. But his friend Lord Burlington having neglected to notify the royal intentions in proper time to the Duke of Dorfet, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, his Excellency was fo offended at this disposal of the richest Deanery in Ireland without his

O. C.

not to press the matter any further. Her Majesty upon this declared, that since they would not suffer Dr. Berkeley to be a Dean in Ireland, he should be a Bishop; and accordingly in 1733 the Bishopric of Cloyne becoming vacant, he was by Letters Patent dated March 17, promoted to that see, and was consecrated at St. Paul's church in Dublin on the 19th of May sollowing by Theophilus Archibishop of Cashel, assisted by the Bishops of Raphoe and Killaloe.

His Lordship repaired immediately to his manse-house at Cloyne, where he constantly resided (except one winter that he attended the business of Parliament in Dublin) and applied himself with vigour to the faithful discharge of all episcopal duties. He revived in his diocese the useful office of Rural Dean which had

commended the season of

gone into difuse, visited frequently parochially, and confirmed in the several parts of his see.

He continued his studies however with unabated attention, and about this time engaged in a controverly with the mathematicians of Great Britain and Ireland. which made a good deal of noise in the literary world. The occasion was thist Mr. Addison had given the Bishop an account of their common friend Dr. Garth's behaviour in his last illness. which was equally unpleasing to both those excellent advocates for revealed re-Ligion. For when Mr. Addison went to fee the Doctor, and began to discourse with him ferioully about preparing for his approaching diffolution, the other made answer, " Surely, Addison, I have good reason not to believe those trifles, fince my friend Dr. Halley, who has dealt fo much in demonstrawiolding. " tion.

tion, has affured me, that the doctrines of Christianity are incomprehensible, " and the religion itself an imposture." The Bishop therefore took arms against this redoubtable dealer in demonstration. and addressed The Analist (P) to him, with a view of shewing, that mysteries in faith were unjustly objected to by mathematicians, who admitted much greater mysteries, and even falshoods in science, of which he endeavoured to prove that the doctrine of fluxions furnished an eminent example. Such an attack upon what had hitherto been looked upon as impregnable, produced a number of warm answers, to which the Bishop replied once or twice or negat began to saint of

From this controversy he turned his thoughts to subjects of more apparent utility; and his Queries proposed for the good of Ireland, first printed in 1735, his Discourse addressed to Magistrates, which

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year franchis. d

which came out the year following, and his Maxims concerning Patriotism, published in 1750, are equally monuments of his knowledge of mankind, and of his zeal for the service of true religion and his country.

In 1745, during the Scots rebellion, his Lordship addressed a letter to the Roman Catholics of his diocese, and in 1740, another to the Clergy of that perfusion in Ireland under the title of A Word to the Wife, written with fo much candour and moderation as well as good fense, that those gentlemen, highly to their own honour, in the Dublin Journal of November 18, 1749, thought fit to return " their fincere and hearty thanks to the worthy author, affuring him that they are determined to comply with every particular recommended in his address to the utmost of their " power." They add, that " in every page

" page it contains a proof of the author's extensive charity; his views are ss only towards the public good; the 16 means he prescribeth are easily com-" plied with; and his manner of treating persons in their circumstances so very fingular, that they plainly shew " the good man, the polite gentleman, " and the true patriot." A character this which was fo entirely his Lordship's due, that in the year 1745 that excellent judge of menit, and real friend to Ireland, the late Lord Chesterfield, as soon as he was advanced to the government, of his own motion wrote to inform him, that the fee of Clogher then vacant, the value . of which was double that of Cloyne, was at his fervice. This offer our Bishop, with many expressions of thankfulness, declined. He had enough already to fatisfy all his wishes; and agreeable to the natural warmth of his temper, he had conceived so high an idea of the beauties

of Cloyne, that Mr. Pope had once almost determined to make a visit to Ireland on purpose to see a place, which his friend had painted out to him with all the brilliancy of colouring, and which yet to common eyes presents nothing that is very worthy of attention.

that will not appear fling

The close of a life thus devoted to the good of mankind, was answerable to the beginning of it; the Bishop's last years being employed in enquiring into the virtues of a medicine, whereof he had himself experienced the good effects in the relief of a nervous cholic, brought on him by his fedentary course of living, and grown to that height, that, in his own words, " it rendered life a burden to him, the more fo, as his pains " were exasperated by exercise." This medicine was no other than the celebrated Tar-water; his thoughts upon which subject he first communicated to the world E

world in the year 1744, in a treatife entitled Siris, a Chain of Philosophical Reflections and Enquiries concerning the Virtues of Tar-water. The author has been heard to declare, that this work cost him more time and pains than any other he had ever been engaged in; a circumstance that will not appear furprizing, to fuch as shall give themselves the trouble of examining into the extent of erudition that is there displayed. It is indeed a chain, which, like that of the poet resting upon the earth, carries up to Jupiter, conducting the reader by an almost imperceptible gradation from the phænomena of tar-water, through the depths of the ancient philosophy, to the fublimest mystery of the Christian religion. It underwent a fecond impression in 1747, and was followed by Farther Thoughts on Tar-water, published in 1752. This was his last performance

BP. BERKELEY. 35

for the press, and he furvived it but a

to fper d the remainder of his days in

In July 1752 he removed, though 7 in a bad state of health, with his Lady and family to Oxford, imporder to superintend the education of one 8 of his sons, then

The was carried from his landing on the English shore in a horse-litter to Oxford.

body could be more fentile than the

This gentleman, George Berkeley, fecond fon of the Bishop, proceeded A. M. January 26, 1759, took holy orders, and in August following was presented to the vicarage of Bray in Berkshire. late Archbifhop Secker, who had a high respect for the father's character, honoured the fon with his patronage and friendship, both at the University and afterwards. By his bounty Dr. Betkeley is now poffeffed of a canonry of Canterbury, the chancellorthin of the collegiate church of Brecknock, and (by exchange for the vicarage of Bray) of the vicarage of Crookham, Berks: to which was added last year, by the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, the vicarage of East Pickham, Kent. He took the degree of L. L. D. February 12, 1768. In the year 1760, he married the daughter of the Reverend Mr. Frinsham, rector

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then newly admitted a student at Christchurch. He had taken a fixed refolution to spend the remainder of his days in this city, with a view of indulging the passion for a learned retirement, which had ever strongly possessed his mind, and was one of the motives that led him to form his Bermuda project. But as no body could be more fensible than his Lordship of the impropriety of a Bishop's non-residence, he previously endeavoured to exchange his high preferment for some canonry or headship at Oxford, Failing of fuccess in this, he actually wrote over to the Secretary of State, to request that he might have permission to resign his Bishoprick, worth at that time at least 14001. per annum. So uncommon a petition excited his Majesty's curiosity to enquire who was the extraordinary man

of White-Waltham, Berks, and by this lady hath iffue two fons. His elder brother, William, died young, in his father's life-time.

that preferred it is being stold that it was his old acquaintance Dr. Berkeley, he declared that he thould die a Bishop in spite of himfelf, but gave him full liberty to veside where he pleaseds of as a promore ness quite cold, and bis joints fifth be-

The Bishop's last act before he left Oloyne was to fign a leafe of the demeine lands in that ineighbourhood, to be renewed yearly at the rent of 200 flowhich fum he directed to be distributed every year until his return, among poor housekeepers of Cloyne, Youghill and Agmemory by his Lade who is tall abbed and dead during her marriage

niguoul

At Oxford he lived shighly respected by the learned members of that great University, till the hand of Providence unexpectedly deprived them of the pleafure and advantage derived from his refidence amongs them. On Sunday evening January 14, 1753, as he was fitting in the midft of his family, listening to a fermon

fermon of Dr. Sherlock swhich his Lady was reading to him, he was feized with what the physicians termed a pally in the heart, and infantly expired. The accident was fo sudden, that his body was quite cold, and his joints stiff, before it was discovered; as the Bishop lay on a couch, and feemed to be afleeper till his daughter, on presenting him with a dish of tea, first perceived his insensibihity. His remains were interred at Christchurch Oxford where there is an elegant marble monument erected to his memory by his Lady, who is still living, and had during her marriage brought bim three fons and one daughter.

As to his person, he was a handsonic man, with a countenance full of meaning and benignity, remarkable for great frength of limbs, and, till his sedentary life impaired it, of a very robust constitution. He was however often troubled with

by the learned members of that event

with the hypochondria, and latterly with that hervous cholic mentioned above.

At Cloyne he constantly rose between three and sour o'clock in the morning, and summoned his family to a lesson on the base-viol from an Italian master he kept in the house for the instruction of his children; though the Bishop himself had no ear for music. He spent the rest of the morning, and often a great part of the day, in study: his favourite author, from whom many of his notions were borrowed, was Plato. He had a large and valuable collection of books and pictures, which are now the property of his son, the Reverend George Berkeley, L. L. D.

The excellence of his moral character, if it were not so conspicuous in his writings, might be learned from the blessings with which his memory is followed by the

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The excellence of his moral character, if it were not so conspicuous in his writings, might be learned from the bleffings with which his memory is followed by

211

the numerous poor (Q) of his neighbourhood, as well as from the testimony of his yet furviving acquaintance, who cannot to this day speak of him without a degree of enthulialin, that removes the air of hyperbole from the well-known line of his friend Mr. Pope: the base-tiel fi

To Berkeley every Virtue under Heaven.

had no ear for thuthe: He font the reft of the morning, and often a great part of the day, in fludy: his favourite authory from whom many of his notions werd bornowed, was Plane vite had a large and were sole collection of books and pictures, while are now the property of his fon, the Rovemad George Berkeley, L.L.D. Appendix

The excellence of bis moral character, if it were not to confpicaous in his writsites, might be icained from the bleffings and bearelles is grounding and daider drive.

and the second

The inscription on his monument was drawn up by Dr. Markham the present Bishop of Chester, then head master of Westminster School, and is in these terms:

Gravistimo przefuli,
Georgio, Episcopo Clonenti

Seu ingenii & eruditionis laudem, Seu probitatis & beneficentiæ spectemus, Inter primos omnium ætatum numerando.

Si Christianus fueris;

e montue mie Si amans patrize, mendament) at

Utroque nomine gloriari potes

BERKLETUM VIXISTE.

Obiit annum agens septuagesimum tertium

Natus Anno Christi M.DC.LXXIX:

stanting of the walking Conjust of the boundings.

more able that L.M.P. stell con collect

high and by wellake Miffake by the country in optics, before looked about as undecontinuable,

turns beringstated neithforemental ander

and do the Fath of NOTES.

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NOTES.

The information on he monutagent

(A) Arithmetica absque Algebra, &c.] This little piece is so far curious, as it shews his early and strong passion for the mathematics, his admiration of those great names in philosophy, Locke and Newton, some of whose positions he afterwards ventured to call in question, and the commencement of his application to those more subtile metaphysical studies, to which his genius was peculiarly adapted.

(B) Theory of Vision.] Of all our author's works this feems to do the greatest honour to his fagacity; being, as Dr. Reid observes, the first attempt that ever was made to distinguish the immediate and natural objects of sight, from the conclusions we have been accustomed from infancy to draw from them: a distinction, that gentleman justly adds, from which the nature of vision hath received great light, and by which many phænomena in optics, before looked upon as unaccountable,

2 1 Inquiry into the Mind, c. 6. §. 11.

have been clearly and distinctly resolved. The boundary is here traced out between the ideas of fight and touch, and it is shewn demonstrably, that though habit hath so connected these two classes of ideas in our minds. that they are called by the fame names, and are not without a strong effort of attention to be separated from each other, yet originally they have no fuch connection; infomuch that a person born blind, and suddenly made to fee, would at first be utterly unable to tell how any object that affected his fight would affect his touch, and particularly would not from fight receive any idea of distance, outness, or external space, but would imagine that all the objects he saw were in his eye, or rather in his mind. This last very curious affertion was afterwards, in the year 1728, furprizingly confirmed in the case of a young man born blind, and couched at fourteen years of age by Mr. Chefelden, F. R. S. and Surgeon to her Majesty, whose narrative is so strong in favour of our author's theory, that we could not forbear presenting the reader with an extract of it from the Philosophical Tranfactions, Nº 402.

When he first faw, he was so far from ' making any judgment about distances, that he thought all objects whatever touched his eyes (as he expressed it) as what he felt touched his skin; and thought no objects fo agreeable as those which were smooth and regular, though he could form no judgment of their shape, or guess what it was in any object that was pleasing to him. s knew not the shape of any thing, non any one thing from another, however different in shape or magnitude; but upon being ' told what things were whose form he knew before from feeling, he would carefully obferve, that he might know them again: but having too many objects to learn at once, he forgot many of them, and as he faid, at first he learned to know, and again forgot a thousand things in a day. One particular 'only, though it may appear trifling, I will relate. Having often forgot which was the ' cat and which was the dog, he was ashamed ' to ask; but catching the cat, which he knew by feeling, he was observed to look at her stedfastly, and then setting her down said, So, puss! I shall know you another time. We thought he foon knew what Pictures represented which were shewed to him, but

we found afterwards we were mistaken; for about two months after he was couched, he discovered at once they represented folid bodies, when to that time he confidered them only as party-coloured planes, or furfaces diverlified with variety of paint: but even then he was no less surprized, expecting the pictures would feel like the things they represented; and was amazed when he found those parts which by their light and shadow appeared now round and uneven, felt only flat like the rest; and asked which was the lying fense, feeling or seeing.—Being shewn his father's picture in a locket at his mother's watch, and told what it was, he acknowledged a likeness; but was vastly furprized, asking how it could be that a large face should be expressed in so little room? faying, it should have seemed as impossible to him as to put a bushel of any thing into a pint.

(C) Principles of human Knowledge.] The Theory of Vision is dedicated to Sir John Percival, afterwards Earl of Egmont; the Principles of human Knowledge to the Earl of Pembroke, at that time Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. In the Introduction to this last, the author

author quarrels with Mr. Locke's account of abstract ideas and general names. Words, fays Mr. Locke, become general, by being made the figns of general ideas, and ideas become general by abstraction, that is, by a power of the mind to conceive separately the feveral co-existing qualities of an object, and leaving out of the complex idea whatever is peculiar to the individual, and retaining only what is common to it with others of the same kind, to frame an abstract idea, wherein all the particulars of that kind equally partake. According to Berkeley, this operation is im-A word becomes general by being made the fign, not of an abstract general idea, but of feveral particular ideas, any one of which it indifferently fuggests to the mind. For example; when we prove any thing concerning motion and extension in general, we do not mean to fay that we have an idea of motion without a body moved, or a particular velocity, or of extension without colour, magnitude, &c. but it is implied, that whatever particular motion or extension we consider, the proposition holds equally true concerning it. Again; an idea, which confidered in itself is particular, becomes general by being made to represent, or stand for, all other

other particular ideas of the same fort. The doctrine of abstraction, he says, arose from a mistake concerning the nature of language. It is supposed that the use of language is only to communicate ideas, and that every fignificant name stands for an idea: since therefore names do not always mark particular ideas, it is firaightway concluded that they fland for abstract notions. But first, the only end of language is not the communicating of ideas, but the exciting of some passion, &c. which is often accomplished without the intervention of words: and fecondly, it is not necessary that names, every time they are used, should excite the ideas they stand for; in reading and discourse they are for the most part used as letters in algebra, wherein although a particular quantity is marked by each letter, it is not requifite that in every step the letter should suggest to our thoughts the quantity it stands for. He infers therefore that we have no ideas but particular ones; and that names do not always, at the time they are used, stand for ideas.

This whole dispute seems to turn upon a single point; whether it is possible for the mind, or pure intellect, to frame to itself ideas

ideas which cannot be the object of the imagination, cannot be pictured by fancy; or, in the language of the Peripatetic school; whether there is any ground for the distinction between vonuala and particula, notions and phantasms. The question must, we think, be answered in the affirmative against Berkeley, by any one who shall attentively read over Cudworth's Essay on eternal and immutable Morality, IV. 1. §. 8, &c. and IV. 3. §. 6. See also Bolingbroke's Philosophical Works, Essay I. p. 117, London 1754.

The object of the Principles of human Knowledge, as well as of the Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous, is to prove, that the commonly received notion of the existence of matter is false, and inconsistent with itself; that those things which are called sensible material objects are not external to the mind, but exist in it, and are nothing more than impressions made upon our minds by the immediate act of God; according to certain rules, termed laws of nature, from which in the ordinary course of his government he never deviates; that the steady adherence of the supreme Spirit to these rules is what constitutes the reality of things to his creatures.

and fo effectually distinguishes the ideas perceived by fense from such as are the work of the mind itself or of dreams, that there is no more danger of confounding them together on this hypothesis than on the common supposition of matter. The not attending to this distinction, which however is inculcated over and over by our author, has led many to fuppose that Berkeley was an arrant sceptic that rejected the testimony of his senses; when in truth the dispute is not about the reality of our fensations (and so far only the testimony of mere fense extends)-for of this he was as firmly convinced as any body could be, and of the necessity of acting accordingly-but concerning the causes of those sensations, whether they proceed from a fet of infensible material beings without us, or immediately from the Creator himself: His principal argument against the existence of those material beings may be reduced to this fyllogifm: to guidana guidantes.

Whatever is immediately perceived by fense, is an idea.

Sensible things are things immediately per-

Therefore fensible things are ideas; and confequently exist only in the mind. For the proof of the fecond proposition he appeals to the feelings of his reader, and asks, whether by what he calls fenfible things he means any thing else but the things he immediately perceives by fense? whether, for instance, when he fays this table exists, he means any thing more than that he fees and feels it, that is, perceives it by his fenses? If you answer, that you are indeed immediately conscious only of the sensation, but that reafon obliges you to infer from thence the existence of an external being which is the cause of it, he joins issue with you and says, the question then is only whether this external cause is active or inactive, spirit or matter, Now it is a contradiction to suppose that unthinking matter can be the cause of ideas; for causality supposes action: action must confift either in motion or volition: it cannot confift in the former, because motion is a fensible quality, i. c. an idea; but all our ideas are passive, inert, including nothing of action in them: therefore nothing can be active, and consequently nothing can be a couse without volition. See Hylas, page 265, London 1734.—But, not to mention that a thing is here afferted which no force of argument will ever make out, that a quality of body is the

the same thing with an idea in the mind, it is obvious to observe, that the whole is merely an argument ab ignorantia, grounded on our inability of shewing the manner by which body operates on spirit; an inability, however, which cannot take away that of whose existence we have otherwise good reason to be fatisfied. This good reason then appears to us to be simply the very same that Dr. Reld first pointed out, the constitution of our nature (we should call it instinct, if such an out cry had not lately been raised against that word) which antecedent to, and independent of all reasoning about the matter, compels us to believe the existence of a number of beings without us both animate and inanimate, with as frong and invincible a faith as we believe the existence of ourselves and our own sensations. If we are not to trust this constitution in the former case, no reason can be given why we should take its word for the truth of our own confciousness. " It is folly." faith Mr. Locke, " to expect demonstration in "every thing." Descartes attempted to prove his own existence. Berkeley could find no proof at all for the existence of matter, and but a probability (though he allows it to be a high probability) for that of his fellow crea-Ga

ferve to verify Mr. Locke's observation.

on income of the week, promided on our

When the Principles of human Knowledge were first published, the ingenious author sent copies of the work to Dr. Clarke and and Mr. Whiston. What effect it produced upon the latter, the reader may possibly be entertained with learning from his own words. Memoirs of Dr. Clarke, page 79—81.

ore in the continuous as a deriv ' And perhaps it will not be here improper, by way of caution, to take notice of the pernicious consequence fuch metaphysical fubtilties have fometimes had, even against common fense and common experience, as ' in the cases of those three famous men, Monf. Leibnitz, Mr. Locke, and Mr. Berkeley .- The first in his pre-established Har-' mony: the fecond in the dispute with Limborch about human Liberty.]-And as to the third named, Mr. Berkeley, he pub-' lished A. D. 1710, at Dublin, this metaphysick notion, that matter was not a real thing; nay, that the common opinion of its reality was groundless, if not ridiculous. · He

· He was pleafed to fend Dr. Clarke and myfelf, each of us, a book. After we had both perused it I went to Dr. Clarke, and discoursed with him about it to this effect: fithat I, being not a metaphyfician, was not sable to answer Mr. Berkeley's subtile premifes, though I did not at all believe his abfurd conclusion. I therefore defired that he, who was deep in fuch fubtilties, but did not appear to believe Mr. Berkeley's conclusions, would answer him; which task he declined. I speak not these things with intention to reproach either Mr. Locke or Dean Berkeley.—I own the latter's great abilities in other parts of learning; and to his noble defign of fettling a College in or near the West Indies, for the instruction of the natives in civil arts and in the principles of Christianity, I heartily wish all possible fuccess. It is the pretended metaphysick fcience itself, derived from the sceptical difputes of the Greek philosophers, not those f particular great men who have been unhappily imposed on by it, that I complain of. Accordingly when the famous Milton had a mind to represent the vain reasonings of wicked spirits in Hades, he describes it by their endless train of metaphysicks thus:

do (i)

Others apart sation a bill retired, &co. Par. Lost, II. 557-1961.

bold serviced it I want to fine colored .

(D) Lord Berkeley of Stratton.] Swift presented him to this nobleman as his relation, with this humorous speech, that he was good far fomething. Observations on Orrery's Life of Swift, page 122, 8vol 1754. In a letter to Stella, April 12, 1713, the Dean speaks thus: 'I went to court to day on purpose to present Mr. Berkeley, one of your Fellows of Dublin College, to Lord Berkeley of Stratton. That Mr. Berkeley is a very ins genious man, and a great philosopher; and I have mentioned him to all the ministers. and have given them fome of his writings, s and I will favour him as much as I can. . This I think I am bound to in honour and conscience, to use all my little credit towards helping forward men of worth in the world: 'or see will be and about con.

(E) In August 1714.] Towards the close of this year he had a fever, in describing the event of which to his friend Swift, Dr. Arbuthnott cannot forbear indulging a little of that pleasantry on Berkeley's system, with which it has frequently since been treated by such

fuch as could not, or would not, be at the pains to acquire a thorough knowledge of it.
October 19, 1714, poor philosopher Berkeley has now the idea of health, which was very hard to produce in him; for he had an idea of a strange fever on him to strong, that it was very hard to destroy it by introducing a contrary one.

- (F) To recollest his observations on Sicily.] One discovery of his only in that country his friends remember to have heard from him; that in the town by Virgil called palmoso Selimus. As a most magnificent temple dedicated to Pollux, to which the natives have given the appellation of Tempio di Pulci, corruptly for Polluci; and the territory adjoining has from thence taken the name of Terra de li Pulci.
- (G) His Letters to Pope and Arbuthnett.] The first is in Pope's Works, Vol. VIII. p. 259, London 1757. The other is in the Philosophical Transactions, No 354. We shall make no apology for giving them both a place in this narrative.

Magnuto well in the bigst charge of Tag-

dioxided to

lane, and announced and also said Leghorn,

od 15 od . 100 • Leghorn, May 1, 1714. As I take ingratitude to be a greater crime than impertinence, I chuse rather to run the rifque of being thought guilty of the latter, than not to return you my thanks for a very agreeable entertainment you just now gave me. I have accidentally met with your Rape of the Lock here, having never feen it before. Style, painting, judgment, fpirit, I had already admired in other of your writings; but in this I am charmed with the magic of your invention, with all those images, allusions, and inexplicable beauties, which you raife fo furprifingly, and at the fame time fo naturally, out of a trifle. And yet I cannot fay that I was · more pleafed with the reading of it, than I am with the pretext it gives me to renew ' in your thoughts the remembrance of one who values no happiness beyond the friendthip of men of wit, learning, and good-

I remember to have heard you mention fome half-formed design of coming to Italy. What might we not expect from a muse that sings so well in the bleak climate of England, if she selt the same warm sun, and breathed

ai as up nell segge note

- s breathed the same air with Virgil and Hoablichtely neculiary that haspall the bast"
- There are here an incredible number of
- 5 Poets that have all the inclination, but want
- the genius, or perhaps the art of the ancients.
- Some among them who understand English,
- begin to relish our authors; and I am in-
- formed that at Florence they have translated
- Milton into Italian verse. If one who knows
- fo well how to write like the old Latin poets
- came among them, it would probably be a
- means to retrieve them from their cold tri-
- vial conceits, to an imitation of their pre-
- deceffors.

April 3

- visionib-houns sister are the leaf our. As merchants, antiquaries, men of plea-
- fure, &c. have all different views in travel-
- ing, I know not whether it might not be
- worth a poet's while to travel, in order to
- flore his mind with strong images of nature.
- could from the belief of the monassing and Green fields and groves, flowery meadows
- and purling streams, are no where in such
- perfection as in England: but if you would
- know lightfome days, warm funs, and blue
- fkies, you must come to Italy; and to enable

- absolutely necessary that he pass the Alps.

Fou will easily perceive that it is self-interest makes me so fond of giving advice to
one who has no need of it. If you came
into these parts I should sly to see you. I
am here (by the favour of my good friend
the Dean of St. Patrick's) in quality of
Chaplain to the Earl of Peterborough, who
about three months since left the greatest
part of his family in this town. God knows
how long we shall stay here. I am,

April 17, 1717, with much difficulty I reached the top of Mount Vesuvius, in which I saw a vast aperture full of smoke, which hindered the seeing its depth and figure. I heard within that horrid gulf certain odd sounds, which seemed to proceed from the belly of the mountain; a fort of murmuring, sighing, throbbing, churning, dashing (as it were) of waves, and between whiles a noise like that of thunder or cannon, which was constantly attended with a clattering like that of tiles falling from the tops of houses on the streets. Some-

times as the wind changed the fmoke grew thinner, discovering a very ruddy flame, and the jaws of the pan or crater ffreaked with red and feveral thades of yellow. After an hour's flay the smoke, being moved by the wind, gave us fhort and partial prospects of the great hollow, in the flat bottom of which I could difcern two furnaces almost, contiguous: that on the left, feeming about three yards in diameter, glowed with red flame, and threw up red-hot stones with a hideous noise, which, as they fell back, caused the fore-mentioned clattering. May 8, in the morning, I ascended to the top of Vesuvius a second time, and found a different face of things. The smoke ascending upright gave a full prospect of the crater, which, as I could judge, is about a mile in. circumference, and an hundred yards deep. A conical mount had been formed fince my last visit, in the middle of the bottom: this mount, I could fee, was made of the stones thrown up and fallen back again into the In this new hill remained the two mounts or furnaces already mentioned: that on our left was in the vertex of the hill. which it had formed round it, and raged, more violently than before, throwing up H 2 every

' every three or four minutes with a dreadful bellowing a vast number of red-hot stones, · fometimes in appearance above a thouland, and at least 3000 feet higher than my head as I flood upon the brink: but there being · little or no wind, they fell back perpendicularly into the crater, increasing the conical ' hill. The other mouth to the right was ' lower in the fide of the fame new formed ' hill: I could discern it to be filled with redhot liquid matter, like that in the furnace of a glas-house, which raged and wrought as the waves of the fea, caufing a fhort abrupt o noise like what may be imagined to proceed from a fea of quickfilver dalhing among uneven rocks. This stuff would sometimes fpew over and run down the convex fide of the conical hill; and appearing at first redhot it changed colour, and hardened as it cooled, shewing the first rudiments of an eruption, or if I may fo fay, an eruption in miniature. Had the wind driven in our faces, we had been in no finall danger of fifling by the fulphureous smoke, or being knocked on the head by lumps of molten minerals which we faw had fometimes fallen on the brink of the crater, upon those shots,

from the gulf at bottom. But as the wind

was favourable, I had an opportunity to

furvey this odd fcene for above an hour and

a half together, during which it was very

observable, that all the volleys of smoke,

dame, and burning stones, came only out

of the hole to our left, while the liquid stuff

in the other mouth wrought and overflowed,

e as hath been already described. June 5,

after a horrid noise, the mountain was feen

at Naples to fpew a little out of the crater.

The fame continued the 6th. The 7th, no-

thing was observed till within two hours of

e night, when it began a hideous bellowing,

which continued all that night and the next,

day till noon, caufing the windows, and, as

fome affirm, the very houses in Naples to

fhake. From that time it fpewed vast quan-

tities of molten stuff to the South, which

freamed down the fide of the mountain

• treamed down the fide of the mountain

e like a great pot boiling over. This evening

I returned from a voyage through Apulia,

and was furprized, paffing by the North fide

of the mountain, to see a great quantity of

ruddy fmoke lie along a huge tract of fky

over the river of molten stuff, which was

itself out of fight. The 9th, Vesuvius

raged less violently: that night we saw from

Naples a column of fire shoot between

whiles

polida :

whiles out of its summit. The 10th, when we thought all would have been over, the mountain grew very outragious again, roaring and groaning most dreadfully. You cannot form a juster idea of this noise in the most violent fits of it, than by imagining a mixed found made up of the raging of a tempest, the murmur of a troubled fea, and the roaring of thunder and artillery, confused all together. It was very terrible as we heard it in the further end of Naples, at the distance of above twelve miles : this moved my curiofity to approach the mountain. Three or four of us got into a boat, and were fet ashore at Torre del Greco, a town fituate at the foot of Vesuvius to the South-west, whence we rode four or five miles before we came to the burning river, which was about midnight. The roaring of the volcano grew exceeding loud and horrible as we approached. I observed a mixture of colours in the cloud over the crater, green, yellow, red, and blue; there was · likewise a ruddy dismal light in the air over that tract of land where the burning river flowed; ashes continually showered on us all the way from the sea-coast: all which circumstances, set off and augmented by the

horror

horror and filence of the night, made a feene the most uncommon and astonishing I ever faw, which grew still more extraordianary as we came nearer the stream. Imagine a vast torrent of liquid fire rolling from the top down the fide of the mountain, and with irrefiftible fury bearing down and confuming vines, olives, fig-trees, houses; in * a word, every thing that stood in its way. This mighty flood divided into different channels, according to the inequalities of the mountain: the largest stream seemed half a mile broad at least, and five miles clong. The nature and confiftence of these burning torrents hath been described with fo much exactness and truth by Borellus in his Latin treatife of Mount Ætna, that I reed fay nothing of it. I walked fo far before my companions up the mountain, along the fide of the river of fire, that I was obliged to retire in great hafte, the fulphureous fleam having furprized me, and almost taken away my breath. During our return, which was about three o'clock in the morning, we constantly heard the murmur and groaning of the mountain, which between whiles would burst out into louder peals, throwing up huge spouts of fire and burn-

ing stones, which falling down again, refembled the stars in our rockets. Sometimes I observed two, at others three distinct columns of flame; and fometimes one vaft one that seemed to fill the whole crater. 'These burning columns and the fiery stones feemed to be shot 1000 feet perpendicular above the fummit of the volcano. The rith at night I observed it from a terrals in Naples, to throw up inceffantly a vaft body of fire, and great stones to a surprizing · height. The 12th in the morning it darkened the fun with ashes and smoke, causing a fort of eclipse. Horrid bellowings this and the foregoing day were heard at Naples, whither part of the ashes also reached. At night I observed it throw up flame as on the 11th. On the 13th the wind changing, we saw a pillar of black smoke shot upright * to a prodigious height: at night I observed the mount cast up fire as before, though not fo distinctly because of the smoke. 14th, a thick black cloud hid the mountain from Naples. The 15th in the morning the court and walls of our house in Naples were covered with ashes. The 16th, the smoke was driven by a Westerly wind from the town to the opposite side of the mountain.

The

The 17th the smoke appeared much diminished, fat, and greafy. The 18th the whole appearance ended; the mountain remaining perfectly quiet without any visible fmoke or flame. A gentleman of my acquaintance, whose window looked toward · Vesuvius, assured me that he observed several flashes, as it were of lightening, iffue out of the mouth of the volcano. It is not worth while to trouble you with the cone jectures I have formed concerning the cause of these phænomena, from what I observed in the Lacus Amfancti, the Solfatara, &c. as well as in Mount Vesuvius. One thing I may venture to fay, that I faw the fluid s matter rife out of the centre of the bottom of the crater, out of the very middle of the ' mountain, contrary to what Borellus imagines, whose method of explaining the eruption of a volcano by an inflexed fyphon and the rules of hydrostatics, is likewise ' inconfistent with the torrent's flowing down from the very vertex of the mountain. I have not feen the crater fince the eruption, but design to visit it again before I leave Naples. I doubt there is nothing in this

- worth shewing the Society; as to that, you
- will use your discretion.
 - · E. (it should be G.) BERKELEY.
- (H) A Tract De Motu.] The principal positions in this treatise are, 1. That neither the beginning nor the communication of motion can justly be ascribed to body, which is wholly incapable of action, but must be referred to spirit only, and ultimately to the supreme Spirit, the sountain of all things.

 2. That pure space is a mere sigment of philosophers; space not being absolute, but relative to the bodies comprehended in it: so that if these were annihilated, space would perish along with them, like all other relations, which cannot be conceived to exist without their correlatives.
- Americans.] With this proposal he carried a letter of recommendation from Dean Swift to Lord Carteret, Lieutenant of Ireland, which deserves a place here, both because it contains a number of particulars of our Author's life, and is besides a proof, as well of the friendly temper of the writer, as of his politeness and address:

September 3, 1724.—There is a gentleman of this kingdom just gone for England; it is Doctor George Berkeley, Dean of Derry, the best preferment among us, being worth about 1100l. a year. He takes the Bath in his way to London, and will of course attend your Excellency, and be prefented I suppose by his friend my Lord Burlington; and, because I believe you will chuse out some very idle minutes to read this letter, perhaps you may not be ill entertained with some account of the man and his errand. He was a Fellow in the University here, and going to England very young, about thirteen years ago, he became the founder of a fect there called the Immaterialists, by the force of a very curious book on that fubject: Dr. Smalridge and many other eminent persons were his proselytes. I fent him Secretary and Chaplain to Sicily with my Lord Peterborough; and upon his Lordship's return, Dr. Berkeley spent above seven years in travelling over most parts of Europe, but chiefly through every corner of Italy, Sicily, and other islands. When he came back to England he found fo many friends. that he was effectually recommended to the Duke of Grafton, by whom he was lately made Dean of Derry. Your Excellency will

be frighted when I tell you all this is but an introduction; for I am now to mention his errand. He is an absolute philosopher with regard to money, titles, and power; and for three years past hath been struck with a notion of founding an University at Bermuda, by a charter from the crown. He hath feduced feveral of the hopefullest young clergymen and others here, many of them well provided for, and all of them in the fairest way of preferment: but in England his conquests are greater, and I doubt will fpread very far this winter. He shewed me a little tract which he defigns to publish, and there your Excellency will fee his whole scheme of a life academico-philosophical (I shall make you remember what you were) of a college founded for Indian scholars and missionaries, where he most exorbitantly proposeth a whole hundred pounds a year for himself, forty pounds for a fellow, and ten for a student. His heart will break if his Deanery be not taken from him, and left to your Excellency's disposal. I difcourage him by the coldness of courts and ministers, who will interpret all this as impossible, and a vision; but nothing will do. And therefore I do humbly entreat your Excellency either to use such persuasions as will keep

keep one of the first men in this kingdom for learning and virtue quite at home, or affist him by your credit to compass his romantic design; which however is very noble and generous, and directly proper for a great person of your excellent education to encourage."

(K) Certain Lands in St. Christopher's.] "The island of St. Christopher's," faith Anderson, History of Commerce, Vol. II. " having been fettled on the very fame day " and year by both England and France, " A. D. 1625, was divided equally between " the two nations. The English were twice " driven out from thence by the French, and as often re-possessed themselves of it. But " at length, in the year 1702, General Cod-" drington, Governor of the Leeward Islands, " upon advice received that war was declared " by England against France, attacked the " French part of the island, and mastered it with very little trouble. Ever fince which " time that fine island has been folely possessed 66 by Great Britain, having been formally " conceded to us by the treaty of Utrecht." The lands, therefore, which had belonged to the French planters, by this cession became the property of his Britannic Majesty. first

first proposals for purchasing these lands were made to the Lords of Trade in 1717: see Journal of the British Commons. After which, the affair seems to have been forgotten, till it was mentioned by Berkeley to Sir Robert Walpole in 1726.

(L) To king George I.] It was the custom of this prince to unbend his mind in the evening by collecting together a company of philosophical foreigners, who discoursed in an easy and familiar manner with each other, entirely unrestrained by the presence of his Majesty, who generally walked about, or sat in a retired part of the chamber. One of this select company was Altieri; and this gave him an opportunity of laying his friend's proposal before the King.

(M) A Copy of Verses.] They run thus:

The muse, disgusted at an age and clime
Barren of every glorious theme,
In distant lands now waits a better time
Producing subjects worthy fame;

the Evereir Mantaga, My this cell

In happy climes, where from the genial fun And virgin earth such scenes ensue, The force of art by nature seems outdone, And fancied beauties by the true:

In happy climes, the feat of innocence, where nature guides, and virtue rules; Where men shall not impose for truth and sense.

The pedantry of courts and schools.

There shall be sung another golden age,

The rise of empire and of arts,

The good and great inspiring epic rage,

The wisest heads and noblest hearts.

ciples childring in the New Theory at Supan.

Not fuch as Europe breeds in her decay;
Such as she bred when fresh and young,
When heavenly slame did animate her clay,
By future poets shall be fung.

Westward the course of empire takes its way:

The four first acts already past,

A fifth shall close the drama with the day:

Time's noblest offspring is the last.

(N) His intended Library.] Dr. Berkeley has left a monument of his skill in architecture in some very elegant designs of this and other parts

parts of his new college, drawn by himself, which were formerly in the possession of the Rev. Dr. Raymond, Vicar of Trim, and are now the property of his grand-daughter Mrs. Ewing, widow of Mr. Thomas Ewing, an ingenious and spirited Bookseller of Dublin lately deceased, whose death has deprived the public of what has long been much wanted, a complete edition of Bishop Berkeley's works in 4to.

(O) Several new Arguments from his own System. The most remarkable of these is a proof of the existence of God, from the principles established in the New Theory of Vision. It is an argument ad hominem, in answer to a fomewhat unreasonable demand of a minute philosopher, who insists upon having the same evidence for the being of a God, that he has for that of his fellow mortals, to wit, the use of speech. It is the arbitrary use, saith the objector, of fenfible figns, which have no fimilitude or necessary connection with the things fignified by them, and which yet fuggest to my mind an endless variety of things ferving to inform me, and direct my conduct both present and future; it is this principally that convinces me of the existence of another intel-

intelligent, thinking person, speaking to me: fhew me that God speaks to man in the same manner by the intervention of arbitrary figns, no matter by which fense they enter into the mind, whether by the ear or the eye, provided they have no necessary connection with the things they suggest-such a proof as this only will content me. Such a proof as this you actually have, replies his opponent, in the connection you find between the objects of your fight and touch, which is perfectly arbitrary, and as much learned from experience as the fignification of words is. A man born blind would not, at first receiving his fight, be able from the visible appearance or figure of an object to form any judgment of its tangible distance or figure, no more than a Chinese upon first hearing the words man and tree, would think of the things signified by them: in both cases there must be time and experience to acquire a habit of knowing the connection between the fign and the thing fignified, that is, of understanding the language whether of the eyes or ears. If the connection appears necessary between the objects of fight and touch, and not fo between words and things, the reason is, because verbal languages are particular; that of vision is uni-K

universal, learned from infancy, and practised through life: whence men are more apt to confound the fign with the thing fignified in one kind of language than in the other. If the use then of fonsible, arbitrary signs, having no necessary coherence with the things. fuggested by them, is allowed to be a proof of the being and intelligence of him who employs them, you have as much reason to think the universal agent, or God, speaks to your eyes, as you can have for thinking any particular person speaks to your ears .- The compliment Cicero pays to an argument of Plato's in favour of the foul's immortality, may with more propriety perhaps be applied to this new. and fubtle proof of the being of a God: Licet concurrant plebeii omnes philosophi (sic enim ii qui a Platone, & Socrate, & ab ea familia dissident, appellandi videntur) non modo nibil umquam tam eleganter explicabunt, sed ne hoc quidem ipsum quam subtiliter conclusum sit, intelligent: Though all the vulgar philosophers in the world were to join their powers together, so far from being able to imitate the elegance of this reasoning, they will never have sense enough to comprehend the ingenuity of it.

- (P) The Analist.] The Bishop's chief objections to the doctrine of fluxions may be comprized under these two heads:
- I. That the object (viz. fluxions) was inconceivable.
- II. That the arguments, brought to prove the truth of the fundamental proposition, were fallacious and inconclusive.

I. It had been faid, that fluxions are the velocities with which quantities vary or are generated; and that they are as the momenta, or in the first proportion of the nascent increments. He objects, that he cannot form any clear idea of these momenta or nascent increments, and still less so of the abstracted velocities of such nascent, imperfect entities: and elsewhere he insists upon the impossibility of conceiving velocity without motion, or motion without time and space.

Again; a fecond fluxion, being called a fluxion of a fluxion, he calls it the velocity of a velocity, the incipient celerity of an incipient celerity, a nascent augment of a nascent augment; and as such, he pronounces the clear conception of it to be impossible. Now

if a fecond fluxion be inconceivable, what are we to think of third, fourth, fifth fluxions, and so onward without end?

II. A principal proposition in the doctrine of fluxions is the rule for finding the momentum or fluxion of a product or power. Of this rule he found two demonstrations in Newton's works: the first is in the 2d lemma of the fecond book of the Principles, concerning which he observes, that such reasoning as this for demonstration, nothing but the obscurity of the subject could have encouraged the great author of the fluxionary method to put upon his followers, and nothing but an implicit deference to authority could move them to admit. The other demonstration of this rule is found in the introduction to Newton's Quadratures; to which the Bishop objects in the same peremptory manner, infifting that it is fallacious, because it proceeds upon two contrary hypotheses: for he says, when the fecond of these hypotheses is made, the first is destroyed, and together with it, all consequences derived from it; whereas the conclusion is drawn from the fecond hypothesis, and a consequence of the first, jointly.

Supposing these objections to be valid, he brings some heavy charges against the illustrious author of the doctrine: That he placed his fluxions in various lights, and shifted his notions of them; that terms, which should be steadily used, were ambiguous; that he employed various arts and devices, &c.

foveral objections remaining meaning to the

Several answers to the Analyst soon appeared. Of these, if we except Colson's commentary then first subjoined to an edition of Newton's fluxions, the principal were fet forth by a gentleman who concealed himself under the name of Philalethes Cantabrigiensis, but who is generally supposed to be Dr. Jurin, and by Benjamin Robins, Efq. The compass of this note will not permit us to do justice to the answers of these two gentlemen: it is sufficient to observe, that though they differed from each other about the meaning of some passages in Newton's writings, yet they vindicated, to the entire fatisfaction of the mathematical reader, the doctrine of fluxions from all the objections that had been advanced against it by the Bishop. Philalethes very foon published a Letter to the author of the Analyst, under the title of Geometry no Friend to Infidelity, in which, after some sharp animadversions pogalago

beautib weath

madversions on his Lordship, he endeavours to point out to him his mistakes, and answers feveral of his principal objections. The following year (1735) the Bishop, in a reply intitled A Defence of Free-thinking in Mathematics, declared himself still of the same opinion, the arguments of his antagonist being futile, and feveral objections remaining unanswered, and confequently in full force. This drew from Philalethes a fecond answer in June 1735, flyled The minute Mathematician: or the Freethinker no just Thinker, wherein the defects of the first paper were supplied, the nature of fluxions of all orders explained in the clearest manner, and the former arguments repeated, illustrated, and cleared, from the objections the Bishop had raised against them. And here this controversy ended.

Mr. Robins, in the year 1735, published his answer, intitled A Discourse concerning the Nature and Certainty of Sir Isaac Newton's Methods of Fluxions, and of prime and ultimate Ratios. He proceeded on a different plan from Philalethes; for, without taking any notice of the Analyst or his objections, he delivered the principles of the method of sluxions in such a manner, as that it should not even in appearance

pearance be liable to these or any other objections, his demonstrations not yielding in accuracy to those of the antient geometricians, so much celebrated on that very account.

But whatever matter of reprehension mathematicians may find in this hostile attempt of our Bishop, it must be acknowledged they have reaped no inconsiderable advantage from it, inasmuch as it gave rise to the most complete Treatise of Fluxions * that hath been yet presented to the public, in which the whole doctrine is delivered with more precision and fulness than ever was done before, or probably than ever would have been done, if no attack had been made upon it.

(Q) By the Poor of his Neighbourhood.] One instance of his attention to his poor neighbours may deserve relating. Cloyne is an Irish village; it is not reasonable therefore to expect much industry or ingenuity in the inhabitants. Yet whatever article of cloathing they could possibly manufacture there, the Bishop would have from no other place; and

chose to wear ill cloaths, and worse wigs, rather than suffer the poor of the town to remain unemployed.

Fair where the test of reprobabling attempts the neuron state of the s

FINIS.

(O) By the Part of his Way bourheat.)
(but inflance of his attention to his poor aughbours have deferve relating. Copie is no tift villege; it is not reasonable therefore to expect much induftry or ingenuity in the chartest whatever article of cloathing they could possibly sampulateure there, the Etheor would possibly sampulateure there, the Etheor would have from no other place and

he had a factor of help beautiful

I am newly below their sourced from an illand, where I dolled there or four months; which were it fet that has true colonia.

POSTSCRIPT. enoughton a minure or two. The illust

three is an entrance of the whole witch

HE author of this memoir was too far removed from the prefs to correct in time a mistake, which the reader it is hoped will the more readily pardon, as it submits to his perufal two entertaining letters of Bishop Berkeley instead of one. In note (G) a letter dated Leghorn, May 1, 1714, is inferted from Pope's Works, instead of the following, which bears date, salvano de la line per l'anti-

depletionimos nat rented years between

Naples, Oct. 22, 1717. "I have long had it in my thoughts to trouble you with a letter, but was difcouraged for want of fomething that I could think worth fending fifteen hundred miles. ' Italy is fuch an exhausted subject, that I dare fay you would eafily forgive my faying ' nothing of it; and the imagination of a · Poet is a thing so nice and delicate, that it is no easy matter to find out images capable of giving pleasure to one of the few, who (in any age) have come up to that character.

' I am nevertheless lately returned from an ' island, where I passed three or four months; ' which, were it fet out in its true colours, ' might, methinks, amuse you agreeably ' enough for a minute or two. The illand Inarime is an epitome of the whole earth, containing within the compass of eighteen miles a wonderful variety of hills, vales, ragged rocks, fruitful plains, and barren mountains, all thrown together in a most romantic confusion. The air is in the hottest season constantly refreshed by cool breezes from the fea. The vales produce excellent wheat and Indian corn, but are ' mostly covered with vineyards, intermixed with fruit-trees; besides the common kinds, · as cherries, apricots, peaches, &c. they produce oranges, limes, almonds, pomegranates, figs, water-melons, and many other fruits unknown to our climates, which lie every where open to the paffenger. The hills are the greater part covered to the top with vines, fome with chefnut groves, and others with thickets of myrtle and lentifcus. The fields in the northern fide are divided by hedge-rows of myrtle. Several fountains and rivulets add to the beauty of this landfcape, which is likewise set off by the va-

riety

riety of some barren spots, and naked rocks.

But that which crowns the scene is a large

' mountain, rifing out of the middle of the

· Islands (once a terrible Volcano, by the an-

cients called Mons Epomeus); its lower

parts are adorned with vines and other fruits:

the middle affords pasture to flocks of goats

and theep, and the top is a fandy pointed

rock, from which you have the finest

profpect in the world, furveying at one

view, besides several pleasant islands lying

at your feet, a tract of Italy about three

hundred miles in length, from the promon-

tory of Antium to the cape of Palinurus !

the greater part of which hath been fung

by Homer and Virgil, as making a confider-

sable part of the travels and adventures of

their two Heroes. The islands Caprea,

Prochyta, and Parthenope, together with

Cajeta, Cume, Monte Mifeno, the habita-

tions of Circe, the Syrens, and the Læstri-

gones, the bay of Naples, the promontory

of Minerva, and the whole Campagnia fe-

lice, make but a part of this noble land-

fcape; which would demand an imagination

as warm, and numbers as flowing as your

own, to describe it. The inhabitants of

this delicious isle, as they are without riches

bac's

and honours, so are they without the vices and follies that attend them; and were they but as much ftrangers to revenge, as they are to avarice and ambition, they might in fact answer the poetical notions of the golden age. But they have got, as an alloy to their happines, an ill habit of murdering one another on flight offences. We had an instance of this the second night after our sarrival, a youth of eighteen being shot dead by our door: and yet by the fole fecret of minding our own buliness, we found a * means of living focurely among these dangenous people. Would you know how we pals the time at Naples? Our chief entertainment is the devotion of our neighbours: belides the gaiety of their churches (where folks go to fee what they call una bella de-" votione, i. c. a fort of religious opera) they · make fire-works almost every week, out of devotion; the freets are often hung with e arras, out of devotion; and (what is fill " more strange) the ladies invite gentlemen to their houses, and treat them with music and ' fweetmeats, out of devotion; in a word. were it not for this devotion of its inhabitants, Naples would have little elfe to recommend it belide the air and fituation. · Learning Learning is in no very thriving state here,

as indeed no where elfe in Italy; however,

among many pretenders, fome men of tafte

are to be met with. A friend of mine told

me not long fince, that being to vifit Salvini

at Florence, he found him reading your

' Homer; he liked the notes extremely, and

could find no other fault with the version.

but that he thought it approached too near

a paraphrase; which shews him not to be

fufficiently acquired with our language.

Work, and when you have that, I need not

with you fuccess. You will do me the

justice to believe, that whatever relates to

8. 1. To. alter Morrel dele committe.

your welfare is fincerely withed by

P. Sond spins I be good to be the heat office.
P. st., uit. after body - bodding to See Holes 19 19

NOTES

Learning is in no very thriving flate he's, e as indeed no where elle in Italy; however, smoone meny pretenders, some nien of take are to be met with. A friend of mine told . me not long fince, that being to vifit Salvini at Florence, he found him reading your Homer: he liked the notes extremely, and could find no other fault with the vertion, but the thought it approached too near A A Ses sim not to be Steele Trad the great, Page a line's 34 for the great & Sir R. Steele Sir & Steele.

2. 25, 1. 9, for a lady subole natural franger to these members, read (the Street Tanger).

2. 30. 1. 6, Tornally, restaining.

2. 340 l. 122 after art a comma.

Ibid. 1. 13, for carries up, r. carries us up. P. 35, 1, 22, for Pickham, r. Peckham. P. 16 penult for buth iffue, r. bath bad iffue. P. 51, ult. after bigh probability, r. See Hylas, p. 297, 1. 1. P. 78, 1. 16, after cleared, dele comma.

